

entrance, which is by a broad drive up to the steps to the esplanade. Thence, the ascent is by another flight of steps to a porch of entrance. It has a simple four-centred arched door, and a gable, with an animal holding a vase, upon the apex.

On this last side, the end of the library has a very rich and beautiful effect, mainly resulting from the elaborate design of the oriel. This is octagonal, with slight projection, with much panelling in the angular buttresses, and in the parapet. The whole of the carving in this part, indeed throughout the building, is well executed; and the proper depth, on which so much of its effect depends is given to the panelling. The principal division of this oriel is of four lights, with a four-centred arch head, and spandrels enriched; the spandrels have one light. They are transomed. The buttresses are crowned by pinnacles, and above the lights are quatrefoils and bosses with machicolations above, the whole displaying considerable variety and richness of effect. The oriel is surmounted by a lean-to covering of stone. Above the oriel is a small window, and the raking mouldings, which are finished by grotesque carvings. The apex of the gable has an elegant pinnacle; it consists of a circular shaft, fluted spirally, supporting an animal holding a vase. Round the base of the shaft are pinnacles clustered together, the whole being supported by a grotesque entablature. On the south side of the library are several chimneys of good design. The north side of the library is five bays in length, the buttresses and lower range of windows being similar to those in the other building. The angles have oblique buttresses, excepting at the north-west corner, where there is a belfry turret. The windows of the library have their lights in two stages, separated by armorial bearings. They are of three lights, and the mullions being continued through the spaces just contain the shields and supporters. The pinnacles in this building have animals instead of ogee capping, and the cornice has a greater number of bosses. In the west side, next Lincoln's Inn-fields, the arrangement differs from that on the opposite side mainly in the absence of the doors and porch. It is inclosed by a long brick wall, with stone capping, stepped down in long distances. There is an oriel to the library, differing from the other only in the cornice, which has larger battlements, and is varied in the panelling. The beauty of the enrichments, and of the ornamental chimneys is here more apparent. The bell turret, at the angle, is octagonal in four stages, divided by strings. The angles have stone coins, and there are small openings to light the staircase. The belfry is of stone, with long openings in each face, cusped and transomed; it is united to the stage below by a weathering, and in place of horizontal louvres has a perforated panelling. The parapet is of brick, with battlements capped with stone. We think that had less height been given to this upper story, by increasing that beneath it, the effect would have been even better than it is, but the turret is well placed. At the back of the angular buttress, on the south side, there is another stair turret. Attached to the library, on the north-west side, is the residence for the steward.

Entering the pile by the central doorway, a vaulted corridor with two short flights of steps, leads into the vestibule, a rectangular apartment 36 feet long and 22 feet wide, having at the south end the door into the hall, at the north the door into the library, and east and west a door to the council-room and the drawing-room. Nearly in the centre of the vestibule four insulated, clustered columns, with others attached to the side walls, and connected by obtuse pointed arches, form an octagon, and carry an elegant lantern of the same shape, with a window in each of its sides ornamented with painted glass. The ceiling of the lantern is groin-vaulted, and has sculptured bosses at the intersections, which are illuminated and gilt. The ceiling of the triangular spaces, cut off by the octagon, is left open as a skylight in each case, with a single plate of glass in it, to give light by means of corresponding glass slabs in the floor, to the corridor below. The other parts of the vestibule, north and south, are ceiled in panels, with deal, varnished.

Entering the hall from the vestibule, the visitor finds himself on the raised platform or

dais, one step above the general level of the chamber, and, if we mistake not, will say it is one of the noblest apartments he has ever seen.

The illustration in our present number will serve to give a general idea of its appearance, as viewed from this end, to such of our readers as may not visit the building. The length of the hall is 120 feet, the width 45 feet, and the height to the apex of the roof 62 feet.\* On either side of the dais is an oriel (as is usual in halls of the period), about eighteen feet wide, with a stone seat round it. The windows of both are ornamented with stained glass, chiefly brought from the old hall. Six other large windows on each side, as described when speaking of the exterior, and one at the south end, light the apartment. The upper part of the side window is filled with the arms of the benchers, in stained glass, executed by Mr. Willement, and the lower part with small panes, marked alternately L. and I. to form a diaper. The walls all round are lined with oak panelling, about twelve feet high, terminated with a cornice containing a carved running enrichment. The oak screen and gallery front at the south end are very original in design. As may be seen in the engraving, the screen consists of a centre doorway, with glazed panels, and two openings of similar form and size on each side, under arched recesses, with oak mullions and tracery also glazed. Projecting buttresses divide them, and are continued up to form pedestals for six figures, over which are carved canopies connected by arches, so as to form five openings in front of the gallery, corresponding with those beneath. The figures are not yet carved, but are now in the hands of Mr. Thomas, the chief carver at the new Houses of Parliament, by whom also the statue of the Queen in the south gable, already mentioned, was executed.

There is much decorative carving about the screen, which is well executed. Under the gallery is the southernmost entrance door, already mentioned as having the clock over it outside. The bolts, hinges, latch, and escutcheon, are admirably designed and executed, and this is the case we may here mention throughout the building. Every lock, every knob, is different, and is full of the right feeling. So too with the stone spandrels of the various door-heads, every one is varied, shewing there has been no lack of pains to produce a perfect whole. Returning to the hall,—the roof, a fine piece of construction, is formed wholly of oak, and is divided by trusses into seven compartments. Each truss comprehends one large arch springing from stone corbels attached to the walls, and has two carved pendants (as in Wolsey's Hall, at Hampton Court), at the terminations of an inner arch that springs from hammer beams projecting from the walls on either side about one-fourth of the whole span. These pendants are illuminated blue, and red, and gilt, and they each carry a chandelier japanned in the same colours. Between the trusses, against the wall all round, is a machicolated cornice with a range of small panels under it, also decorated with colours. The louvre described externally, is in the fifth division from the south.

Against the wall, over the door, on the dais, is Hogarth's picture, "Paul before Festus," in a new oak frame, designed to accord with the hall. The heads of the windows being square and wide, great care was required in the construction to make all sound. A bond-stone was brought through the whole thickness of the wall at each angle of the head, and one in the centre, and these carry the longitudinal stones by means of a "secret joint" and juggling.

The library, which is 50 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 44 feet high, has also an open oak roof: it is in five divisions formed by trusses, with pendants, and a series of arches placed longitudinally on each side, with a corresponding series against the side walls, terminating on stone corbels. The book-cases jut out on each side to form separate apartments for study, and have an iron balustrade running round them about midway, and another gallery over them against each wall, the whole length of the room. There are five windows on the north side, and two large oriels of very elegant

designs, all ornamented with stained glass and circular embossed panes\*.

The council-room and drawing-room are each 32 feet by 24. The walls are lined with panelling: they are ceiled with deal in panels, stained and varnished, with carved bosses at the intersection of the ribs, and each is lighted by a large window, in six lights and two stories. They have both handsome carved stone chimney-pieces: the bell-pulls here are also worth examining.

Relative to the kitchen, which is beneath the hall, we have only left ourselves space to say, it is a lofty vaulted apartment, with a noble fire-place, and all proper appliances.

In connection with the new buildings, the square of Lincoln's Inn has been inclosed with iron railing, and stone posts of similar character. The square is entered from Lincoln's Inn-Fields by a large Tudor gateway, of which we shall probably give an engraving hereafter.

It now only remains for us to say, that Messrs. Baker and Son were the builders, and have well sustained the high reputation they enjoy. The works are all admirably executed; much more so, we will venture to assert, than they could be at this moment in any other country in Europe, notwithstanding our assumed inferiority in one or two respects. The amount of the contract was \$5,000, but of the total amount spent we are ignorant. Mr. Bavin, the architect's clerk of the works, on whom the whole local management has devolved, deserves especial mention, for the energy and zeal with which he has carried out his principal's views. The carving in stone was executed by Holmes, and the wood carving by Witman, of Marsham-street, Westminster. They have both shown themselves to be able workmen. Of the smith's work we have already spoken; it was executed by John Janes, of the York-road, Westminster, who deserves to be known. The skill and artistic feeling shewn by him in this work, are, unfortunately, now rarely found in his craft. John Ashinn was the foreman of the masons. Caldecott, of Great Russell-street, made the furniture, and fitted up the hall for the reception, with throne, &c., and Strode and Ledger made the chandeliers.

#### IMPORTANT PROCEEDINGS IN WESTMINSTER COURT OF SEWERS.

On the 24th ultimo, a numerous Court of Commissioners was held, it being special, "To consider the various plans for improvement of the sewers hereafter to be built under the authority of this commission."

Mr. Edward Willoughby, the chairman, made a few preliminary remarks as introductory of the business of the day, reminding the Court of the extreme importance of the subject for their decision, and considering that they had only twelve months ago altered the forms that had been in use for many years, and that the one substituted had not given satisfaction, he called upon them to proceed with caution. There were one or two points he deemed it necessary to mention. The Court must bear in mind there was a marked distinction between this and the Holborn and Finsbury Commission. The latter had no outlets of their own into the Thames, but were dependent upon other commissions; on the contrary, this commission had its own outlets directly to the river, hence the form of sewer that might be well adapted to the circumstances of the Holborn division might be not at all suited to the requirements of this commission; the Westminster division needed more basin, more reservoir, to meet the consequences of the tidal waters closing the outlets; and an increased capacity of sewers was necessary as reservoirs for the upland waters during the period they were shut out from an entrance to the river by the tidal closing of the outlets.

Mr. Leslie then rose to propose a motion which he said would bring the antagonistic principles to an issue, and which he hoped would secure to the large districts under their jurisdiction an efficient drainage, durable and economical in its construction. He had tried

\* The length of the hall at Christ's Hospital, London, is 120 feet, the width is 31 feet, and height 57 feet.

\* The library contains about 20,000 volumes; the most rare amongst them is a volume of *Fryar's Records*, published in the year of the great fire, and now very scarce, the greater number being then burnt. Mr. Boteler, who was unfortunately killed on a railway recently, was the official Master of the library. Mr. Spalbury is the acting librarian.